(b) There has been increase in the exports of Coffee, Tea and Cashewnuts. The following measures are taken by the Government to encourage exports:—

Measures in respect of Tea ..

(i) Full rebate of excise duty on exports of loose tea.

(ii) In addition to full rebate of excise duty on loose tea used in the manufacture of packet tea, there is full rebate of additional excise duty on exports of packet tea (upto 1 Kg.

(iii) Full rebate of excise duty on exports of Instant tea.

(iv) Grant of cash compensatory support @ 8% for tea bag and Instant tea and @ 18% for packet tea, tea caddies and tea chestlets.

(v) Introduction of cash compensatory support @ 12% of FOB for 'Quick Brewing' black tea.

(vi) Grant of import replenishment of exports of packet tea at 10%, tea bag at 10 per cent, Instant tea at 20 per cent and for bulk tea at 4 per cent.

Measures in respect of coffee .

1. Coffee has been exempted from the purview of export duty.

2. CCS at the rate of 20% on exports of Instant Coffee in bulk and 10% on its exports in 100 gm tins.

3. REP Licence at the rate of 20% of the FOB value of Instant Coffee.

4. REP Licence at 4% of the FOB value of Raw Coffee exports.

5. Participation in fairs abroad from time to time.

Measures in respect of Cashewnuts

(a) Our Embassies in certain countries were addressed to find out the possible import sources; availability of surplus raw nuts for import, prices etc. Information received from the Embassies have been passed on to Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation (KSCDC), Cashew Export Promotion Council (CEPC) and the State Trading Corporation (STC).

(b) For promoting our exports and for studying feasibility of imports from abroad, delegations of cashew processors/ exporters were sponsored to different areas.

(c) Publicity is given through brochures, etc. in different foreign language mainly through our Missions abroad and our agents.

(d) Participation in International Food Fairs and other Exhibitions wherein free samples of Cashew packets are distributed.

(e) STC has been asked to help the Kerala State Government bodies in exports using STC's contacts in the USA and Europe.

Vacant posts in the Ministry of Commerce

1139. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in different departments of the Ministry of Commerce for the last three years;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in filling up these vacancies; and

(c) by when these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) 165 posts in various grades are lying vacant in the different offices of the Ministry of Commerce for the last three years.

(b) and (c) The vacancies in various grades/posts are filled in accordance with the relevant recruitment rules with the approval of the competant authority. The vacancies mentioned

at (a) above have remained unfilled due to certain administrative reasons. Some of the vacancies have remained unfilled due to non-availability of suitable candidates even after the vacancies were circulated/re-circulated to all Central/State Government Departments and advertised in Employment News. Proposals to fill up some of the vacancies have already been sent to the UPSC/Staff Selection Commission. Efforts are, being made to fill up these vacancies shortly.

Payment of arrears to bank employees towards revision of salary

1140. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved the agreement arrived at between the employees of the banks and the Indian Banks Association with regard to payment of arrears towards revision of salary;

(b) whether the banks have implemented the said agreement;

(c) whether it is a fact that the retired officers of the banks were also paid the arrears;

(d) whether the retired officers of the Bank of Baroda have not been paid arrears of gratuity, provident fund and leave encashment; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) The service conditions, including the salary structure of the officers of the nationalised banks, are governed by the Officers' Service Regulations, Banks have been advised to make necessary amendments in these Regulations to incorporate the revised salary structures on the basis of broad understanding reached by the Indian Banks' Association with the representative of the Officers. Pending amendments to the Regulations, banks have been advised by the Indian Banks' Association to make adhoc payments to officers in the light of the revision of their salaries.

(c) to (e) The revised salary structure has been made effective from 1.11.1987. All the bank's officers who retired on or after 1.11.1987 and are entitled to superannuation benefits on the basis of revised scales of pay are eligible for arrears. While some of the banks have paid the arrears to their retired employees, others including Bank of Baroda, have not so far released the arrears, pending amendments to the relevant provisions of the Officers' Service Regulations.

Implementation of Flood Control River Beds Scheme

1141. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the projects undertaken by the Central Government on the Bihar-border areas of Purnia district under Flood Control River Beds Scheme;

(b) the date when the contruction of these projects started; and

(c) what progress has so far been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) There is no such project.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Promotion of employees working in ITDC

1142. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the number of employees of ITDC's corporate office who have been given